

PERSPECTIVE

October 21, 2022



Custer County Farm Bureau donated money to Arapaho, Butler, Custer City and Thomas volunteer fire departments.



Washington County Farm Bureau President Macy Strom presents a check to the Copan fire department.



Comanche County Farm Bureau donated a total of \$20,000 to fire departments that serve the county.

Farm Bureau donates more than \$60,000 to rural fire departments in battle against ongoing drought

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Fire Department Matching Program donated a total of \$61,300 to rural fire departments around Oklahoma.

The program – a collaboration between OKFB, the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture and OKFB Insurance – matched donations made by county Farm Bureaus to local fire departments up to \$450.

“Oklahoma farmers and ranchers

– many of whom are volunteer firefighters themselves – understand the importance of rural fire departments during an intense drought,” said David VonTungeln, president of the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture. “We hope the funds donated will provide some relief to our local firefighters in the form of food, water or supplies.”

Forty-seven county Farm Bureaus participated in the program, donating

varying amounts to their local fire departments. Comanche County Farm Bureau led the charge with a total donation of \$20,000. A full list of participating counties is below.

All 77 counties in the state are facing varying levels of drought, increasing the chances for wildfires to spark and calling local fire departments into action. To learn more about drought conditions in Oklahoma, visit okfb.news/DroughtMap.

Counties participating in the Fire Department Matching Program

- Beaver
- Blaine
- Caddo
- Choctaw
- Comanche
- Craig
- Creek
- Custer
- Dewey
- Ellis
- Garfield
- Grant
- Greer
- Harper
- Haskell
- Hughes
- Jackson
- Kay
- Kingfisher
- Kiowa
- Latimer
- LeFlore
- Lincoln
- Logan
- Major
- Marshall
- McCurtain
- McIntosh
- Murray
- Noble
- Nowata
- Okfuskee
- Oklahoma
- Okmulgee
- Osage
- Ottawa
- Pawnee
- Payne
- Pottawatomie
- Pushmataha
- Rogers
- Roger Mills
- Texas
- Tillman
- Washington
- Washita
- Woodward

**Remember to vote
November 8**

Check out our online voter guide for candidates endorsed and supported by the OKFB Ag PAC:

okfb.news/vote22

Second-grade students awarded prizes for completing OKFB Foundation for Agriculture Watermelon Challenge

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture recently selected three elementary school students to receive a cash prize for completing the foundation's annual Watermelon Challenge.

The three winning students selected at random were Ronnie L., Cordell Elementary; Audrey B., Washington

Elementary; and Wyatt B., Frontier Elementary.

The second-grade students each planted, grew and harvested their own watermelons to learn about agriculture and the work it takes to grow food.

The OKFB Foundation for Agriculture's Watermelon Challenge is held every year for second-grade

classrooms. Teachers who sign up receive a complete kit for their classrooms, including 30 watermelon seed packets, activity books and lesson plan resources.

For more information on the Watermelon Challenge or any other foundation programs, contact Holly Carroll at holly.carroll@aggiving.org.



Audrey B.
Washington Elementary



Wyatt B.
Frontier Elementary



Ronnie L.
Cordell Elementary

Pontotoc County Farm Bureau member shares black vulture troubles at state Capitol



Pontotoc County Farm Bureau member Chuck Roberts testifies as part of an interim study on black vultures on Monday, Oct. 10 at the state Capitol in Oklahoma City. Roberts shared with state legislators the negative impact black vultures have on his cattle operation in Fitzhugh. The interim study was led by Sen. Blake Stephens and included testimony from livestock producers and industry experts.



OKFB praises modified regulations on hay transport during historic drought

Gov. Kevin Stitt signed an executive order Tuesday, Oct. 11 temporarily waiving many load regulations for vehicles transporting hay into Oklahoma during the state's historic drought.

The executive order expands the acceptable load width from 11 feet to 12 feet, allowing two 6-foot round bales to be loaded side-by-side. Load heights max out at 14 feet, and transport vehicles must be marked with an "oversize load" sign.

"Oklahoma Farm Bureau greatly

appreciates the continued support from Gov. Stitt during this challenging time for Oklahoma farmers and ranchers," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB president. "The intense drought during most of the 2022 growing season depleted many producers' forage supply, forcing them to source and transport hay across state lines. This executive order will allow shipments of desperately needed livestock forage to take place as efficiently as possible while keeping safety as a top priority for all involved."

OKFB supports Lucas-authored SEC exclusion bill for agriculture

Oklahoma U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas has introduced legislation that would exclude agriculture from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's climate disclosure rulemaking.

The Protect Farmers from the SEC Act is supported by the American Farm Bureau Federation, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Cotton Council, National Corn Growers Association, National Pork Producers Council, USA Rice, American Sugar Alliance, American Soybean Association, National Potato Council, United States Cattlemen's Association, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, Agricultural Retailers Association, Oklahoma Farm Bureau, and the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association.

"Oklahoma Farm Bureau members appreciate Rep. Frank Lucas' tireless work to protect family farmers and ranchers from the flawed SEC emissions rule proposed earlier this year," said Rodd Moesel, OKFB President. "Our



agricultural producers strive to produce the safest, most affordable and most abundant food supply in the world, and this burdensome and expensive rule would threaten many of our family farmers. Without the changes laid out in this bill brought forth by Rep. Lucas, the proposed SEC regulations would be nearly impossible to comply with and the ramifications would be felt throughout our nation's food supply and by our consumers. We applaud Rep. Lucas for his continued efforts to advocate for farmers and ranchers across our state and nation."

Gubernatorial candidate forum time set

The agriculture-focused gubernatorial candidate forum will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26 in Lawton.

The forum is sponsored by Oklahoma Farm Bureau and the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association.

The candidate forum will be held at the Comanche County Fairgrounds Prairie Building at 920 SW Sheridan Road in Lawton.

OKFB and OCA members are encouraged to attend the forum, which is open to the general public.

Items needed for silent auction at OKFB convention

County Farm Bureaus can donate items to be offered in the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture Silent Auction during the 2022 OKFB Annual Meeting Nov. 11-13 in Norman.

Items that have been the biggest hit in past years have been tools, home goods and local items.

Counties that would like to donate items for auction can deliver them to the convention on Friday, Nov. 11.

Please contact Holly Carroll if you plan to donate an item at (405) 523-2300 or at holly.carroll@aggiving.org. Please provide information about the item you will bring so bid sheets and space can be prepared.

OKFB supports agriculture youth at Tulsa State Fair

Oklahoma Farm Bureau was once again a proud supporter of agriculture youth at the Tulsa State Fair Night of Champions.

OKFB provided more than \$25,000 in scholarship funds to 4-H and FFA members who "Made the stage" at the state fair as a Frank Sanders Grand Champion Partner.

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Oklahoma ag groups hold fundraiser for Stitt

Oklahoma Farm Bureau and fellow agriculture groups from around the state hosted a campaign fundraiser for incumbent gubernatorial candidate Gov. Kevin Stitt on Thursday, Oct. 13 in Midwest City. Gov. Stitt spoke on the importance of agriculture in Oklahoma and visited with Farm Bureau members and guests in attendance. Stitt has been endorsed and supported by the grassroots-driven Oklahoma Farm Bureau Ag PAC.



Bice visits Oklahoma, Logan County Farm Bureau members



U.S. Rep. Stephanie Bice visits with members of Oklahoma County Farm Bureau Monday, Oct. 3 at the county's annual meeting in Oklahoma City. Bice discussed pressing issues she is currently working on in Washington, D.C. and answered questions.



U.S. Rep. Stephanie Bice meets with Logan County Farm Bureau members Friday, Oct. 14 on rising farm input costs, the importance of energy independence and more. Parts Logan County will fall within Bice's congressional district beginning in January.